

REMARKS

Claims 1-28, 30-46, and 57-67 remain pending in this application. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-12, 15, 16, 18, 26, 27, 31-35, 37-40, 57, 59, and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,913,856 ("Chia"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since Chia does not disclose each and every element required by these claims, as amended.

In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 26, and 35 to respectively include the limitations of claims 62, 63, 65, and 66, which the Examiner had indicated as reciting patentable subject matter. Notably, since the Examiner essentially did not give any patentable weight to the language "a substantial entirety" by construing the distal portion of a shaft as being a shaft in and of itself, this language has been deleted from claims 1, 11, 26, and 35 to make the scope of the claims more definite.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11, 26, and 35, as well as the claims depending therefrom (2, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 27, 31-34, 37-40, 57, 59, and 60), are not anticipated by Chia, and as such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102 rejections of these claims.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-46 and 57-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being obvious over various combinations of Chia, U.S. Patent No. 6,602,242 ("Fung"), and U.S. Patent No.

6,669,692 ("Nelson"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, since no proper combination of Chia, Fung, and Nelson discloses, teaches, or suggests the combination of elements required by these claims, as amended.

In particular, in addition to amending claims 1, 11, 26, and 35 to respectively include the limitations of claims 62, 63, 65, and 66, which the Examiner had indicated as reciting patentable subject matter, Applicant has also amended claims 19 and 41 to respectively include the limitations of claims 64 and 67, which the Examiner had indicated as also reciting patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1, 11, 19, 26, 35, and 41, as well as the claims depending therefrom (claims 2-10, 12-18, 20-25, 27-34, 36-40, 42-46, and 57-61), are not obvious over any combination of Chia, Fung, and Nelson.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (949) 724-1849.

Respectfully submitted,

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